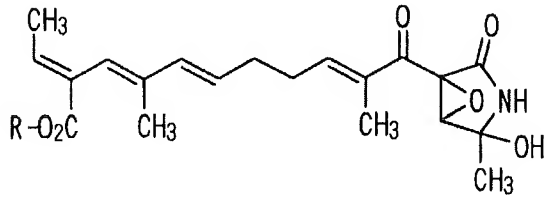
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled.)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A compound represented by the following general formula (I)

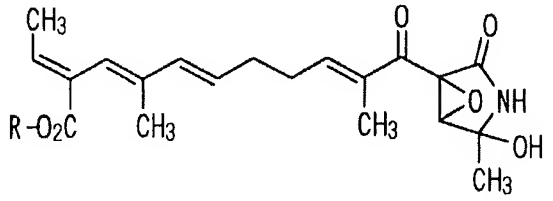


(I)

wherein R in the general formula (I) is a tert-butyl group.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Allowed) A process for producing a compound represented by the following general formula (I):



(I)

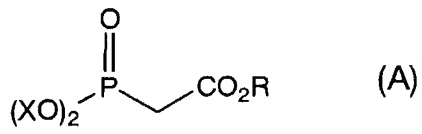
wherein R represents a linear, branched, or cyclic alkyl having 2 or more carbon atoms or an aryl group comprising:

(1) reacting tetrahydropyran-2-ol with (ethoxycarbonylethylidene) triphenylphospholane;

(2) protecting a free hydroxyl group of the reaction product from (1);

(3) transforming a hydroxymethyl group of the reaction product from (2) into a formyl group;

(4) reacting the reaction product from (3) with phosphonoacetic acid ester represented by the following general formula (A):



(A)

wherein R and X each represent a linear, branched, or cyclic alkyl or aryl group;

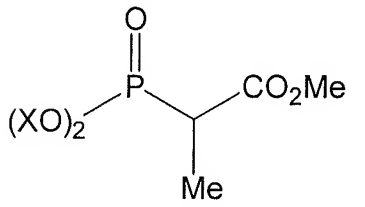
(5) reacting the reaction product from (4) with a base and acetaldehyde;

(6) formally dehydrating the reaction product from (5);

(7) deblocking a protecting group of the reaction product from (6);

(8) oxidizing the reaction product from (7);

(9) reacting the reaction product from (8) with phosphonopropionic acid methyl ester represented by the following general formula (B):

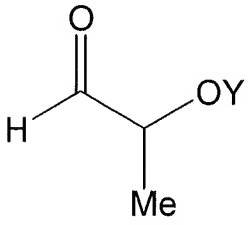


(B)

wherein X is defined as in (4) above;

(10) reacting the reaction product from (9) with acetonitrile in the presence of a base;

(11) reacting the reaction product from (10) with propanal represented by the following general formula (C):



(C)

wherein Y represents a hydroxyl protecting group;

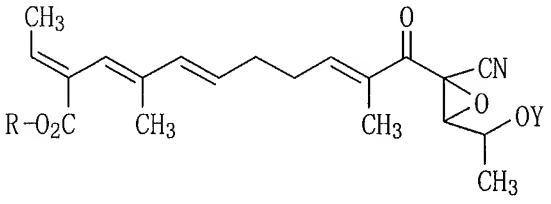
(12) epoxidizing the reaction product from (11);

(13) deblocking a protecting group of the reaction product from (12);

(14) dehydrating a cyano group from the reaction product from (13); and

(15) lactamizing the reaction product from (14).

6. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the following general formula (III):

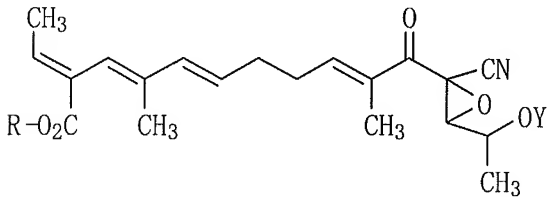


(III)

wherein R represents a ~~linear, branched, or cyclic alkyl or aryl group~~ a methyl group, ethyl group, n-propyl group, isopropyl group, n-butyl group, isobutyl group, sec-butyl group, tert-butyl group, n-pentyl group or n-hexyl group and Y represents ~~a hydroxyl protecting group~~ a tert-butyldiphenylsilyl group, a tert-butyldimethylsilyl group, a triethylsilyl group, a group, a

dimethylethylsilyl group, a teterahydropyranyl group, an ethoxyethyl group, a methoxymethyl group or a benzyl group.

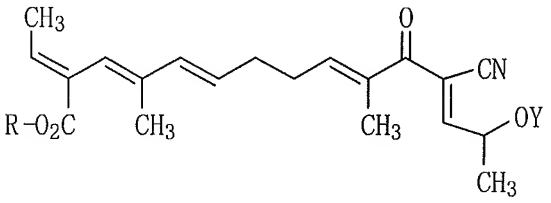
7. (Allowed) A process for producing a compound represented by the following general formula (III):



(III)

wherein R represents a linear, branched, or cyclic alkyl or aryl group and Y represents a hydroxyl protecting group, comprising

reacting a compound represented by the following general formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein R and Y are defined as above for (III),

with a peroxide that steroselectively epoxidizes the compound (IV).

8. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition containing the compound according to claim 3 as an active ingredient and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Allowed) The process according to claim 5, wherein R in the general formula (I) is a linear, branched, or cyclic alkyl group having 2 or more carbon atoms.

11. (Allowed) The process according to claim 5, wherein R in the general formula (I) is a linear, branched or cyclic alkyl group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms.

12. (Allowed) The process according to claim 5, wherein R in the general formula (I) is a tert-butyl group.

13. (Canceled)